(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is already a Jaipur by-pass on western side of NH-8 connecting NH-8 (Delhi-Jaipur), NH-11 (Jaipur-Bikaner) and NH-8 (Jaipur-Ajmer). Proposal for construction of ring road/bypass is included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VII approved by the Government.

Cutting of trees for construction of roads

2857. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trees planted along the roads in the country have been cut during the construction of roads under your department;

(b) the total number of trees cut all over the country including Uttar Pradesh and the details of the varieties of these trees alongwith their botanical names, State-wise;

(c) whether the trees of the same variety have been planted in lieu of the trees which have been cut and if not. the reasons therefor: and

(d) whether Government has any plan to plant trees of the same variety which have been cut, so that the environment can be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) During widening and improvement of National Highways, existing trees are generally preserved as far as possible. Where the cutting of trees are unavoidable, the executing Agencies take clearance from the concerned Government Departments. For major projects, environment clearance which includes cutting of trees, is obtained from the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(b) Details of the number of trees cut all over the Country including Uttar Pradesh, is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Requisite amount for compensatory afforestation is deposited with the Forest Departments. At least twice the number of trees cut are planted under compensatory afforestation. The choice of species is left to the discretion of Forest Departments.

Allocation of funds for NHDP-IV

2858. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for completion of highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP-IV);

(b) the length of road laid so far and the length of road for which contract has been awarded but the work has not been started and the length of road for which contract has not been awarded so far;